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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

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Introduction

1. The present report supplements and updates as at 23 November 2000 the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/55/204) of 18 July 2000, and the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights containing the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Fund at its fifth session in February 2000, which have been approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/80 and Add.1 of 14 December 1999 and 3 March 2000 respectively).

I. MANDATE OF THE FUND

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (hereafter "the Fund") with the purpose of assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions which deal with issues of contemporary forms of slavery to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (hereafter "the Working Group") by providing them with financial assistance, and to extend humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. Funding is obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals.

II. ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

3. In conformity with the above-mentioned resolution, the Fund is administered in accordance with the relevant financial regulations and rules of the United Nations on general trust funds, by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the advice of a Board of Trustees (hereafter "the Board").

4. The Board is composed of five United Nations experts with relevant experience in the field of human rights and, in particular, of issues of contemporary forms of slavery, serving in their personal capacities. The current members of the Board, appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year renewable term, in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution are: Swami Agnivesh (Chairman; India); Theo van Boven (Netherlands); Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara (Mauritania); Tatiana Matveeva (Russian Federation); and José de Souza Martins (Brazil).

III. BENEFICIARIES

5. In accordance with the selection criteria adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122, the beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be, in the opinion of the Board: representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of contemporary

forms of slavery who would not be able to attend the session of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund and who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery; or individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.

IV. GRANTS CYCLE

6. The deadline for submitting applications for travel or project grants was 15 September 2000. Admissible applications will be examined by the Board at its next session, scheduled to take place from 22 to 26 January 2001. The recommendations for grants adopted by the Board at that session will be submitted for approval by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General. The grants approved should be paid in February/March 2001. Beneficiaries of project grants will have to provide to the secretariat of the Fund narrative and financial reports on the use of their grants before 1 December 2001. Until satisfactory reports on the use of previous grants are received, no new project grant can be paid to these beneficiaries.

V. PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

7. In order to meet the requirements of the above-mentioned grants cycle and to meet new requests for funding received during a current year, new voluntary contributions should be paid to the Fund by January of the following year in order to be duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer in advance of the annual session of the Board. Contributions which cannot be recorded before the session of the Board will be carried over to the following year.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

8. At its fifth session, in February 2000, the Board recommended 17 travel grants for an amount of US$ 30,800 for NGOs to participate in the session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery which took place in Geneva from 14 to 23 June 2000 and 17 project grants for an amount of US$ 83,500 (for detailed information on these recommendations, including a list of beneficiaries of grants, see E/CN.4/2000/80/Add.1). The above-mentioned project grants have been paid and 16 beneficiaries of travel grants participated in the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

VII. WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY AND SUB-COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

9. When considering the item on its agenda concerning the Fund at its twenty-fifth session, held from 14 to 23 June 2000, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery had before it the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights

(E/CN.4/2000/80 and Add.1). The reports submitted regularly by the Secretary-General on the status of contributions and their use, showed increased transparency and was intended to encourage donors.

10. The issues raised at the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group by the beneficiaries of travel grants by the Fund were many and varied, including debt bondage and bonded labour, the sexual exploitation of children and slavery-like practices, the situation of child domestic workers, trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation and child prostitution. All participants at that session welcomed the abundance and quality of the testimony and presentations made by former victims and organizations active in and acquainted with daily reality in the field. According to the Working Group, they brought a practical, human dimension to the Group's work, enabled it to keep abreast of developments and were extremely useful to the Group.

11. The Group also welcomed the presence, at their own expense, and participation in its deliberations of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, Mr. Swami Agnivesh, and of one of the members of the Board, Ms. Tatiana Matveeva. They mentioned, inter alia, that: at its last session, the Board had welcomed the Fund's higher profile, with the Chairperson of the Board being invited to introduce and update the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights; an increasing number of private individuals, including artists and students, had contributed to the Fund, among them pupils at a school in the United Kingdom who, as part of a project called "Progress of schools together", had raised US$ 1,000 for the Fund; donors had been thanked at their annual meeting with the Board and an appeal had been launched for new contributions; the Fund would need US$ 300,000 a year to function effectively.

12. In its resolution 2000/12 of 17 August 2000, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights noted with satisfaction the participation of a growing number of representatives of non-governmental organizations financed by the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and their valuable contribution to the work of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its twenty-fifth session and expressed its support for the work of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, in particular their fund-raising activities. The Sub-Commission encouraged the activities of those non-governmental organizations financed by the Fund. It also encouraged the Board of Trustees to finance non-governmental organizations from all geographical regions in order to provide the widest possible view of contemporary forms of slavery in the world.

VIII. SIXTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

13. The sixth session of the Board is scheduled to take place in Geneva at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson, from 22 to 26 January 2001.

A. Contributions available for the sixth session

14. At the time of drafting of the present report, the contributions available for the sixth session are as follows:

Table 1. Contributions received from Governments as at 23 November 2000

States	Amount in US$	Paid on
Bahrain	3 000	24 October 2000
Japan	50 000	9 June 2000
Poland	5 000	24 October 2000
South Africa	9 550	3 April 2000
Subtotal	67 550	

Table 2. Contributions received from non-governmental organizations and individuals as at 23 November 2000

NGOs and individuals	Amount in US$	Paid on
Kansai Electric Power Dispute Committee/Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights	1 840	30 July 2000
Students of the Archway School, United Kingdom	1 020	23 July 2000
Mr. Daniel Prémont	120	13 April 2000
Mr. Aldo and Ms. Giovanna Salvadori	7 184	30 August 2000
Mr. Yorio Shiokawa	299	12 September 2000
Ms. Valeria Spinelli Catani	172	4 August 2000
Ms. Halima Warzazi	500	10 July 2000
Subtotal	11 135	
Grand total	78 685	

B. Pledges

Table 3. Pledges made as at 23 November 2000

States, NGOs and individuals	Amount in US$	Pledged on
Brazil	10 000[a]	27 April 2000
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	5 000	14 March 2000
The Netherlands	38 462	23 November 2000
Ms. Lullin Kelemen	150	3 October 2000
Ms. Karen Parker	500	24 November 2000
Grand total	54 112	

[a] Pledge made for three years (US$ 10,000 each year).

IX. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

15. Applications for grants received in 2000 amounted to about $700,000. Therefore, the Board expressed the view at its fifth session in February 2000 that, in order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily, the Fund would need $362,000 before its sixth session in January 2001, which includes the amount needed for travel and project grants, the annual session of the Board, programme support costs and an operating cash reserve. In accordance with the United Nations rules governing general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, such as this Fund, the above-mentioned amount includes 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures which must be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, as well as 13 per cent for programme support costs.

16. Taking into consideration that, as at 23 November 2000, about US$ 270,000 are available for the sixth session - consisting of the balance remaining from the fifth session of the Board and new contributions received since then (see tables 1 and 2 above) - the Fund still needs additional contributions amounting to about US$ 100,000 to be able to fulfil its mandate effectively.

X. FUND-RAISING

A. Resolutions

17. In its resolution 1999/46 of 27 April 1999 on contemporary forms of slavery, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to transmit to Governments an appeal for voluntary contributions to the Fund.

18. In its resolution 2000/12 of 17 August 2000, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights expressed its appreciation to the donor Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals, in particular new donors, and expressed concern at the insufficiency of contributions to the Fund. The Sub-Commission therefore urged all Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private and public entities and individuals to contribute annually to the Fund and emphasized the need for contributions on a regular basis and, if possible, before the end of the current year, in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively and to enable the Board of Trustees to recommend grants to assist representatives of non-governmental organizations to participate in the deliberations of the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in June 2001 and to finance humanitarian assistance projects by non-governmental organizations in the field. It also encouraged all donors who have made pledges to the Fund to contribute as soon as possible.

B. Appeal for funds by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

19. As recommended by the Board of Trustees and the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a letter to all Governments on 11 October 2000 appealing to them to contribute to the Fund and drawing their attention to the above-mentioned resolutions of the Commission and Sub-Commission. Taking into consideration that the next session of the Board of Trustees would be held in January 2001, the High Commissioner underlined that she would greatly appreciate it if Governments were to

contribute to the Fund, if possible, by the end of the year so that their contributions could be taken into consideration by the Board and recommended for travel and assistance grants in the year 2001.

C. Meeting with regular donors

20. As part of the regular reporting process on the financial situation and activities of the Fund, the secretariat of the Fund and of the Board will organize a technical information meeting for regular donors on 14 December 2000 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, at which all relevant reports and documents on the activities of the Fund will be distributed and discussed. Donors will have the possibility to ask questions concerning the activities of the Fund and Board. Another technical information meeting for regular donors will take place in January 2001, during the session of the Board.

XI. HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND

21. Voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund can be made:

By bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund"

In New York in United States dollars (US$): c/o Chase Manhattan Bank, N.Y. A/C: 001-1-508629, G/L: UN-0503456, US Banking Code: 021000021

Or in Geneva, in United States dollars (US$): c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Acc. 240-C-590-160.1;

Or in Swiss francs (CHF) or other currencies: c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Acc. 240-C-590-160.0, Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A

By cheque to the order of the "United Nations" to be sent to The Treasurer, United Nations Office in Geneva, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Please mention in your payment order:

"For the Slavery Fund, account SH".

XII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

22. For further information about how to contribute to these Funds, please contact the Fund's secretariat, Trust Funds Unit, SSB, OHCHR, United Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; phone: (+4122) 917 9164, 917 9145 or 917 9266; fax: 917 9017; e-mail: dpremont.hchr@unog.ch/eortado-rosich.hchr@unog.ch

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